

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SSO-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. GUATEMALA REJECTS US MILITARY AID

ON THE EVE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA'S VISIT TO THE US,  
THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA HAS PRESENTED A NOTE TO OUR  
EMBASSY WHICH DECLINES "IN ADVANCE" AID OR MILITARY SALES  
CONDITIONED ON FOREIGN JUDGMENTS ON INTERNAL MATTERS.  
THE NOTE STATES IN PART:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA VIEWS WITH SERIOUS PRE-  
OCCUPATION AND DISQUIET THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE SHOULD  
BE PUT INTO PRACTICE THE DOCTRINE THAT ONE GOVERNMENT, IN  
UNILATERAL FASHION, SHOULD ARROGATE TO ITSELF THE POWER  
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TO JUDGE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS  
RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY, AND  
ON THE BASIS OF THIS UNILATERAL JUDGMENT TAKES MEASURES  
WHICH IN SOME WAY COULD AFFECT THE SECURITY OR ECONOMIC  
INTERESTS OF THE OTHER".

EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE THE DIMINISHED ATTRACTIVENESS

OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO GUATEMALA IN RECENT

YEARS, THIS DECISION REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE IN VIEW OF THE PLANNED ACQUISITION OF US HELICOPTERS AND OTHER AIRCRAFT, AND SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) GUATEMALA 1584, 3/11.

2. INDIAN ELECTIONS: DOWN TO THE WIRE

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY THE CONGRESS AND JANATA (OPPOSITION) PARTIES ARE REACHING A PEAK IN PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH 16 POLLING. AFTER A SLOW START, CONGRESS IS SHOWING SIGNS OF COUNTERING THE OPPOSITION SURGE; MRS. GANDHI'S WHIRLWIND TOURS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH, HAVE GIVEN HER PARTY BADLY NEEDED MOMENTUM. WHILE EMBASSY NEW DELHI STILL BELIEVES THE CONTEST IS TOO CLOSE TO CALL, MOST OBSERVERS PREDICT A CONGRESS VICTORY WITH A MARGIN FAR TOO SLENDER FOR MRS. GANDHI'S COMFORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT:

--ALTHOUGH VOTERS NOW COMPLAIN LOUDLY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT, MANY MAY FEEL THEY MUST CHOOSE GANDHI FOR NATIONAL STABILITY.

--THE CAMPAIGN'S LAST TWO DAYS, AND A POSSIBLE LAST-MINUTE INFUSION OF CONGRESS FUNDS, WILL PROVE CRUCIAL.

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--FOREIGN-POLICY ISSUES ARE PLAYING A NEGLIGIBLE ROLE.

--THE CAMPAIGN IS FAR LESS VIOLENT THAN THOSE IN THE PAST. ((CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 3589, 3/11.  
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## Message Attributes

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